

CODES GOAL – Evaluate, update and adopt Ordinances and Codes:

Blaine County has been designated a Community at Risk due to its proximity to the wildland/urban interface. This requires a reevaluation of the current building and fire codes to determine that survivability of property is possible. Adequate fire and building codes foster fire safe communities through building materials and construction methods and the creation of survivable space. These prevention standards also allow for the safe ingress and egress of firefighters and their equipment for fire fighting as well as the safe evacuation of citizens.

- **COOPERATIVE OBJECTIVE:** Establish an interface code cooperative work group to draft codes that will further protect our Community at Risk.
- **INTERFACE COMPATIBILITY OBJECTIVE:** Establish fire and building codes compatible with the fire threat posed by Wildland/Urban Interface and Intermix zones.
- **LARGE STRUCTURES OBJECTIVE:** Adopt code requirements to adequately protect structures greater than 3,600 square feet. Requirements need to address water supply, hydrant systems, access, construction enhancements, landscaping and other features related to survivability.
- **FIREWORKS OBJECTIVE:** Regulate fireworks to eliminate a source of fire ignition that is particularly hazardous in our Community at Risk because of prevalent vegetative fuels.
- **WILDLAND/URBAN INTERFACE OBJECTIVE:** Adopt a wildland/urban interface code that establishes requirements based on the hazard ranking of any evaluated structure.
- **HAZARD RANKING OBJECTIVE:** Use property hazard ranking to educate property owners on methods of fuels reduction.
- **INCENTIVES OBJECTIVE:** Motivate property owners to follow through on fire prevention to maintain favorable fire insurance costs.

ACTION PLAN for CODES GOAL - EVALUATE, UPDATE and ADOPT ORDINANCES & CODES

ACTION ITEMS	Description	Coordinating Agencies	Available Funding & all other Available Resources	Supplies Needed to Take Action & Complete Action	Anticipated Achievement or Outcome	Social and Environment Benefits	Milestones	Timeline
COOPERATIVE Objective:	Establish an Countywide Code Cooperative Work Group to draft codes that will further protect our Community at Risk.							
Agency Coordination Action Item	Request that all the building, planning and fire officials meet for the purpose of code development.	County Fire Officials, Building Officials and Planners	Research and development assistance for the Code Goal @ 20 hours / week for 6 months = \$30,000.	Current and proposed regulations	Gather all code recommending personnel together to establish the need for a county wide wild land/urban interface ordinance	Establishes working relationships between all agencies to assist in the adoption of a county wide regulation.	Set a date for the first meeting of all the agency heads.	Dec-04
Meeting Schedule Action Item	Establish a regular meeting schedule to review the latest national and international codes to aid in drafting new local codes.	County Fire Officials, Building Officials and Planners	Research and development assistance for the Code Goal @ 20 hours / week for 6 months = \$30,000.	National and International Codes and Ordinances	Develop a set of "Draft Ordinances" for all jurisdictions in Blaine County that are appropriate for this community at risk.	Ordinances will be established county-wide that promote fire safety in the urban interface. The codes can be easily followed by architects, builders and code officials throughout Blaine County.	Establish a regular meeting schedule with a deadline for presentation of the proposed ordinance(s) to the legislative bodies.	Jan-05
Code Education Action Item	Utilize the Countywide Code Group to present seminars that inform working professionals about the need for updated codes.	County Fire Officials, Building Officials and Planners	Need \$100 per presentation in each of the 6 code making entities	Requires a PowerPoint like presentation to show the need for the proposed code changes	Gain support from the construction community for code changes.	Improved safety from fire in the WUI	Set a meeting schedule for the presentations	Apr-05

WILDLAND/URBAN INTERFACE Objective:	Establish fire and building codes compatible with the fire threat posed by wildland/urban interface and intermix zones.							
WUI Code Review and Drafting Action item	Work with the Countywide Code Group to specifically review the International Wildland/Urban Interface Code for the purpose of drafting a Blaine County Wildland/Urban Interface Code.	County Fire Officials, Building Officials and Planners	\$400 required to purchase 10 WUI Codes	Copies of the International WUI Code and other successful variations of similar codes and ordinances	Development of a Draft County-wide WUI Code	Improved safety from fire in the WUI	Establish a WUI Code Working Group at a meeting of the County-wide Code Group.	Jan-05
WUI Support Group Action Item	Utilize local professional associations to support the passage of codes recommended by the Countywide Code Group.	Intermountain Chapter of the AIA, Building Contractor's Assoc., Rotary Clubs	Research and development assistance for the Code Goal @ 20 hours / week for 6 months = \$30,000.	Firewise handouts, proposed code changes	Passage of recommended codes and ordinances	Community support of improved fire and building codes	Meet with the one of the groups seek their support.	Mar-05
WUI Code Adoption Action Item	Enlist the Countywide Code Group to promote the adoption of the recommended Blaine County Wildland/Urban Interface Code to City Councils and County Commissioners.	Code Group, Mayors and City Councils, County Commissioners	Research and development assistance for the Code Goal @ 20 hours / week for 6 months = \$30,000.	Recommended code changes, a fast moving presentation of the need for changes and documented support.	Approval and passage of ordinances	A county-wide ordinance that promotes fire and building safety in the WUI	Prepare draft ordinance for the review of the legislators.	Sep-05
FIREWORKS Objective:	Regulate fireworks to eliminate a source of ignition that is particularly hazardous in our Community at Risk because of prevalent vegetative fuels.							
Fireworks Legislation Action Item	Promote statewide legislation that will prohibit the sale and use of illegal fireworks.	Local and State fire and law enforcement officials, the State Fire Marshal's Office, Physicians of Ophthalmology and the Consumer Product Safety Commission	Need additional \$125 / day travel expenses per person to attend hearings and lobby for legislation at the Capitol Building. Minimum 2 persons 4-two day trips = \$2000	Information on the number of fires and injuries caused by illegal fireworks each year.	There will be no sales of illegal fireworks in the state for use in or outside of Idaho except by a licensed pyrotechnician for a properly permitted display.	A reduction in the number of fires and injuries due to illegal fireworks.	Meet with other interested advocates of fireworks safety to select state legislators who would support legislation banning the sale of illegal fireworks.	Nov-05

Fireworks Stands Action Item	Prohibit fireworks stands outside of city limits.	County Commissioners, Planning and Zoning Administrator, Fire District Chiefs and Vendors	Research and development assistance for the Code Goal @ 20 hours / week for 6 months = \$30,000.	Handouts from the County P&Z noting the prohibition of fireworks stands outside of corporate limits.	Sales of fireworks prohibited outside of cities.	Enforcement of fireworks laws will be under closer scrutiny where there is a greater concentration of enforcement personnel.	Meet with the Planning and Zoning Administrator with a proposal.	May-05
Law Enforcement Fireworks Education Action Item	Educate fire and law enforcement personnel in the knowledge of fireworks laws.	Police and Fire Chiefs, Sheriff, County Prosecutors	Current Budget	State Law re: Fireworks, samples and training aids	Consistent and informed enforcement of fireworks regulations.	A reduction in the number of fires and injuries due to illegal fireworks.	Develop a lesson plan	Apr-05
Fireworks Enforcement Action Item	Provide consistent and diligent enforcement of fireworks ordinances throughout the cities and county.	Police and Fire Chiefs, Sheriff, County Prosecutors	Overtime during 4 weeks surrounding July 4th.	A program outlining how offenses should and will be handled.	Reduces fires and injuries caused by illegal fireworks.	A reduction in the number of fires and injuries due to illegal fireworks.	Develop a lesson plan	Apr-05
Citizens Fireworks Education Action Item	Explain the dangers of fireworks in terms of personal injury and property damage potential.	American Ophthalmologists, BLM, Forest Service	Additional personnel time to present programs	Documentation and information on injuries and fires caused each season by illegal fireworks. Special attention to eye injuries.	Reduces fires and injuries caused by illegal fireworks.	The public becomes increasingly informed and knowledgeable of the dangers of fireworks.	Develop a presentation for schools and community groups	May-05
LARGE STRUCTURES & ABSENTEE HOMEOWNERSHIP Objective:	Adopt code requirements to adequately protect structures greater than 3,600 square feet.							
Large Structure Impacts Action Item	Draft appropriate codes to address the impacts that second homes and large homes have, communitywide, on both fire prevention efforts and fire protection capabilities.	County Fire Officials, Building Officials and Planners	Research and development assistance for the Code Goal @ 20 hours / week for 6 months = \$30,000.	National and International Codes and Ordinances	A code is adopted that provides adequate infrastructure for dealing with large homes and estates in the WUI.	The larger homes are well protected through regulation without reducing the protection of the rest of the community.	Determine some of the additional fire protection "needs" of large and second homes.	Apr-05

Magnum Structure Impacts Action Item	Determine quantitatively, the impact of second homes and the homes greater than 6,000 square feet.	County Fire Officials, Building Officials and Planners	Research and development assistance for the Code Goal @ 20 hours / week for 6 months = \$30,000.	Additional requirements for fire protection of large homes	The additional fire protection requirements for large homes is understood.	The larger homes support their needed fire protection requirements without additional cost to the community.	List the impacts of second homes and large homes	Apr-05
Professionals' Education Action Item	Educate professional builders and architects about the need and rationale behind codes specific to large structures exceeding 3,600 square feet.	County Fire Officials, Building Officials and Planners	Research and development assistance for the Code Goal @ 20 hours / week for 6 months = \$30,000.	National and International Codes and Ordinances	Building professionals support more stringent codes that improve the fire safety of large homes.	No additional cost to the rest of the community to assume the added burden of protecting exceptionally large homes. Firefighter safety is not compromised in trying to protect property that is beyond the capability of resources.	Develop a presentation that stresses the need for additional code requirements and infrastructure to safely build a large home in the WUI.	May-05
FIRE INSURANCE Objective:	Coordinate with insurance companies to provide incentives for communities that adopt, apply and enforce Wildland/Urban Interface Codes and require the use of Firewise practices.							
Local Legislative Support Action Item	Solicit support from local legislative bodies to approach the State Insurance Commission regarding the development of incentive programs.	County Fire Officials, Building Officials and Planners	Research and development assistance for the Code Goal @ 20 hours / week for 6 months = \$30,000.	List of Firewise practices and examples.	Legislative support of incentives to maintain or reduce property insurance costs.	Availability of property insurance at a reasonable cost.	List of incentives for review of legislators.	Jul-05
State Insurance Commission Action Item	Meet with the State Insurance Commission to discuss and develop a fire insurance rate structure to reward communities that adopt Interface Codes and homeowners that apply Firewise Practices.	State, City and County Legislators, Architects, Builders, Fire and Building Officials and Planners	Research and development assistance for the Code Goal @ 20 hours / week for 6 months = \$30,000.	National and International Codes and Ordinances	Positive Firewise incentives that can maintain or reduce property insurance cost.	Homeowners use Firewise practices to reduce insurance cost and better protect their homes from fire.	Complete a proposed list of incentives.	Jul-05

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Insurer Alleges Agencies Bungled Wildfire Control

Oakland Tribune

07/25/2004

SAN DIEGO -- Bungling by fire and police agencies here allowed last October's Cedar fire to spread "into a wildfire of epic proportion," one of California's largest insurance companies has charged in a claim filed against three public agencies. Allstate Corp., which expects to pay out \$290 million to \$330 million to policyholders as a result of last fall's fires, is demanding that the city and county of San Diego as well as the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection help it cover the costs because it says they did an incompetent job of fighting the most costly of the blazes, the Cedar fire. San Diego County is the only large county in the state without a countywide fire department.

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The agencies have rejected the claim, which accuses emergency officials of "gross malfeasance" in allowing the fires to blacken 300,000 acres across San Diego County's backcountry and destroy 2,300 homes.

Officials said a state law provides governments virtually blanket immunity to lawsuits arising from firefighting efforts.

Candysse Miller, executive director of the Insurance Information Network of California, a trade group for insurance companies, said San Diego is the only city or county to face such a claim and Allstate is the only company to file such a claim.

The October wildfires struck parts of San Bernardino, Riverside, Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

Even if Allstate does not pursue its claim in court, she added, the insurance giant is "sending a message" that could result in future lawsuits if San Diego officials fail to bolster their fire protection efforts.

Allstate spokesman Bill Mellander said no decision had been made by the company on whether to file a lawsuit. The claim filed this week was the first step required before a lawsuit can be filed.

"In the face of possible negligence that may have caused damage to our policyholders, we are serving notice that gives us the time and ability to weigh all our possible options," Mellander said.

The government response in the early hours of the Cedar fire has been the source of debate. Fire officials have said that they were hampered by poor communications and a lack of resources and that some of their early tactical decisions did little to slow the fire's spread.

Critics say San Diego has ignored numerous warnings over the last 20 years that its fire agencies were woefully understaffed and could not respond effectively to a major brush fire.

Although the problems stated in Allstate's claim — lack of helicopters and aerial tankers, radio foul-ups, and poor coordination — have been documented by the agencies in their "after- action" reports, the insurance company's language is some of the toughest that has been applied to the firefighting effort.

Fire officials, in the early stages of the fire, showed "a complete disregard" for panicky calls from homeowners, resulting in a "lack of coordination by governmental officials responsible for organizing and dispatching appropriate firefighting efforts," the insurance company charged.

In December a report by the San Diego Fire Department said the department was hampered by a lack of manpower, equipment and training and had problems with communication and coordination in fighting the Cedar fire, which destroyed homes in two of the city's pricier neighborhoods, Tierrasanta and Scripps Ranch.

In March a task force assembled by the forestry department reached a similar conclusion about all the agencies that fought the fires in the county.

San Diego County is the only large county in the state without a countywide fire department. And the city of San Diego has one of the lowest number of firefighters of any large city in the nation.